

History of Luxemburg Dates Back to Coming of Green Bay Railroad

Wisconsin House Was First Business Place Erected in Village in 1892 as Saloon, Store

LUXEMBURG, Wis.—The history of the Village of Luxemburg, before its incorporation, dates back to the year 1892, the time of the completion of the Kewaunee, Green Bay and Western railroad, and the first regular train was put on in September of that year. Before this time the business center of the community consisted of what is now South Luxemburg, which is not incorporated.

The present depot and freight house was also erected during that year and the first actual business place erected was the Wisconsin House, which was used as a saloon and store by Hector Boncher, but is now a hotel and tavern owned and operated by Camille Barbiaux.

Nick Kaut, Peter Merens, Desire Colle, Mike Ley and Joseph Freix were the leading citizens at that time. A Mr. Paterson was the first railroad agent. Victor Kaye had charge of the Cargill Elevator. Dr. F. Moraux was the first and only physician here for many years. Jule Petry conducted the first lumber yard and shingle mill, and long before prohibition time Casper Lobiger operated a cider press. Jos. Roth was proprietor of the first furniture store and Fred Radue operated the first barber shop in a small building in the rear of the Wisconsin House. Vojta Nuhilcek was the first harness maker. John Dupont opened up a jewelry store in later years. John Linzmeyer operated the first butcher shop, while Nick Spitzer of South Luxemburg conducted the only hotel for many years and it was his custom to meet all trains. The first postoffice was located in the Linzmeyer building in South Luxemburg up to the year 1903 when the Postoffice Department ordered the change to the village. Albert Lieb through his popularity and accommodating ways has held the position as postmaster for so long that no one remembers the previous incumbent.

First Telephone in 1901

The Bank of Luxemburg was incorporated in 1902. Telephone accommodations were available since July 1901, and the Kaut and Boncher flour mill, now the Luxemburg Milling company, was built in 1903. The American House, a brick hotel, was constructed by Nick Kaut during 1902. In 1893 Peter Boucher constructed the building that houses the Luxemburg News. Desire Colle put up the Kratz saloon in the same year and Mr. Paterson owned and operated what is now part of the A. M. Hoppe & Sons company store, and the building of the Kieweg-Peters company store was started in the spring of 1903.

The first rural mail route out of the village was established in 1904. John L. Miller was the first and for a period of five months the only rural mail carrier. It is related by him, that on July 5th of that year his entire delivery of mail consisted of one post card. Today there are five routes and each carrier delivers approximately five hundred pieces of mail a day.

Peter Merens was the first white child born in what is now the village of Luxemburg. Nick Kaut often mentioned the fact that it took him two days to travel from New Franken to Luxemburg, while it can now be made by auto with ease in fifteen minutes.

Boon Started In 1902

It was in the years of 1902 and 1903 that the real building activities in the village took place and most of the buildings, and more particularly the business places were constructed within the ten years following. It was also at this time that land where the village now stands on was plotted. The west side of the street being owned by Desire Colle was laid out the same way about a year later.

To Nick Kaut goes the honor of being the "Daddy of the Village." It was he who first cleared the forest on which the village now stands, and it was through him and other sturdy Luxemburgers that the name of the village originated from, and it was through his liberal offer that made it possible for many individuals with limited means to purchase lots at a price within their reach.

Good Fire Protection

As time went on new equipment was added to the fire department. In addition to the Fairbanks-Morse gas engine stationed at the fire house, which performed good service at many fires, the board purchased a motorized fire truck in 1927. This equipment and the addition of more cisterns in all parts of the village, together with the well organized and efficient volunteer firemen proved to be a valuable asset not only to the village, but also to the surrounding territory, and many thousands of dollars worth of property was saved. It was a custom to make rural fire runs for \$50.00, plus any extra expense, and this amount in most instances the insurance companies were glad to pay.

However, in course of time the popularity of the Luxemburg Fire Department grew to such an extent that calls came from every section and even outside of the county. This naturally increased the fire hazard in the village and in April 1931, a joint meeting was called at which time the Town Boards of Luxemburg, Casco, Montpelier and Red River met with the Board of the Village of Luxemburg to discuss the advisability of purchasing another motorized fire truck to be used for fire protection in these towns and the village only, to be managed and serviced by the village firemen and the expense divided proportionately. This proposition at once met with favor and shortly thereafter a contract was entered for the purchase of an additional pumper of a 300 gallon capacity. The pumper is being housed in the village and has worked out to the mutual benefit of all concerned. The larger pumper owned by the village is not permitted to go outside of the limits and insures good protection at all times.

Kept Pace With Times

The present opera house was formerly located in what is now known as the Firemen's park, and was municipally-owned. Dances were conducted at regular intervals and the big time of the year was the annual 4th of July celebration with the usual parade, fireworks, etc. Hundreds of people gathered there and the slogan was "The more we spend—the more we make." The profits were used for public improvements. After the building was removed the park's shares were bought up by the village, thanks to the foresightedness of the village officials, and later turned over to the Volunteer Fire department.

This place has since developed into a fine recreation park and playground for the children, covering a block square.

Proposal Failed 63 to 6

In the meantime the village con-

LUXEMBURG VIEWS DEPICT PROSPEROUS VILLAGE



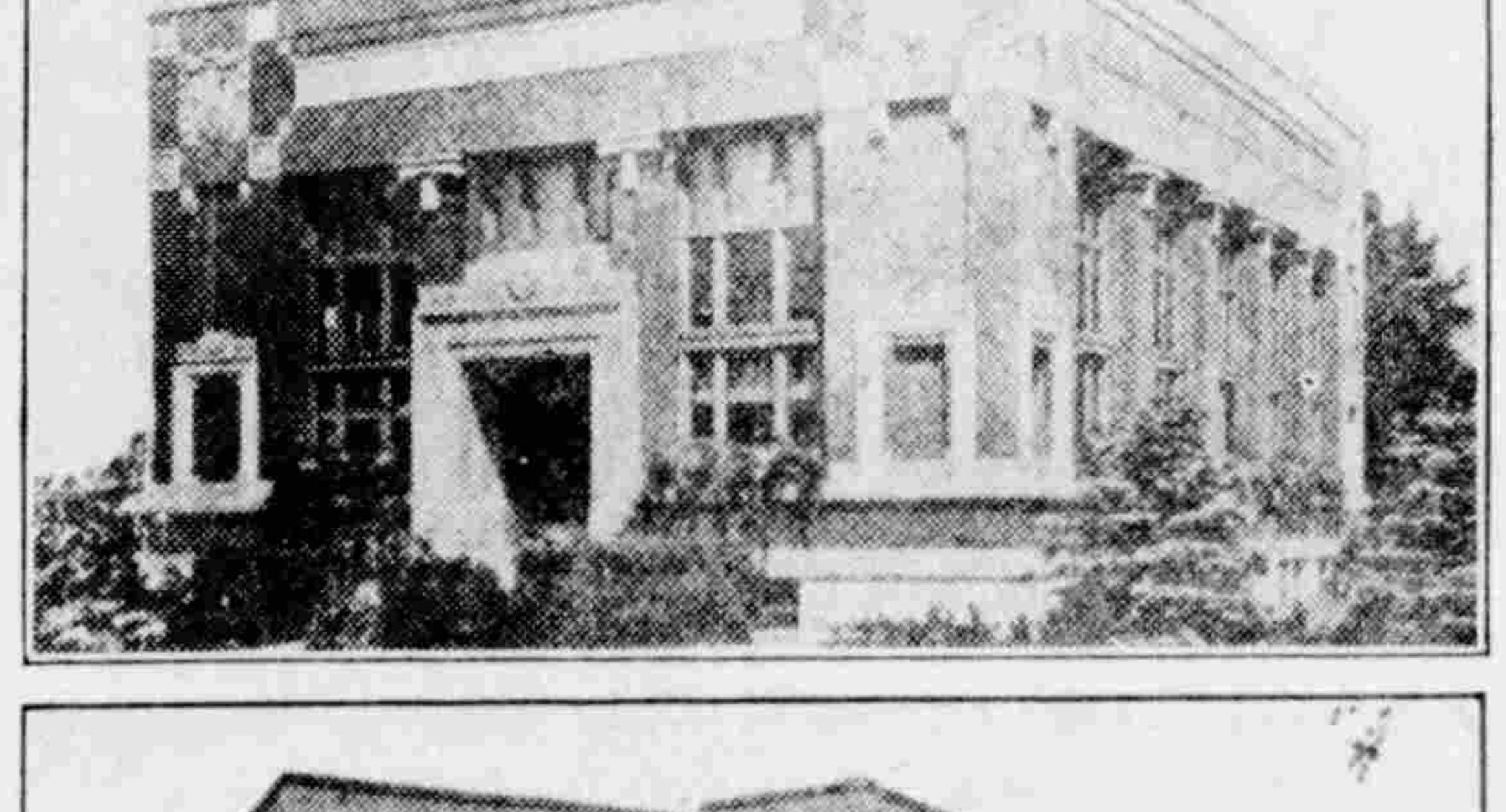
CHARLES L. PETERS



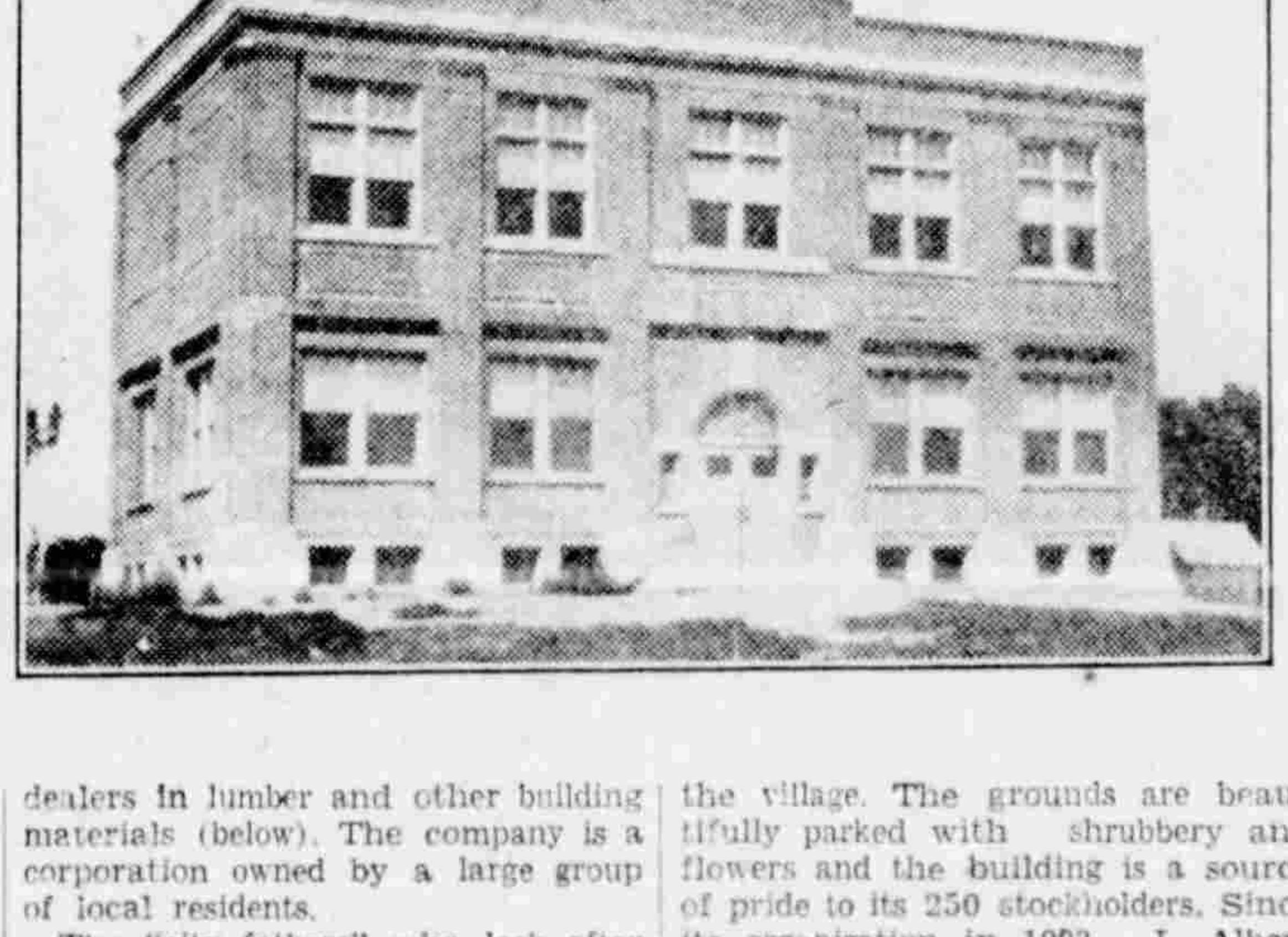
HECTOR BONCHER



PETER BOUCHER



NICHOLAS KAUT



MEMBERS HAILED ORDER KEEPING 32ND DIVISION

How the order rescinding use of the Thirty-second Wisconsin division as a replacement unit was hailed with delight by members of the division, is described in M. M. Quaife's "Wisconsin—Its History and Its People."

"Many of the men had actually been transferred to other units when the decision taken was rescinded, to the great delight of all members of the division," Quaife said. "The successful German offensive began on March 21, 1918, produced an urgent need for placing as many American troops as possible on the battle line, and under the stress of this situation the plan of utilizing the Thirty-second as a replacement division was abandoned."

FOURTH of July was a great day in Luxemburg as all the residents turned out to join in celebration of national independence day. At the top is a parade, apparently at rest at the end of the march. The event took place in 1894. The town band is seen in the background and the marshal is seated on his horse in the left background. Below it is a view of Main-st., with residents of the village conducting their business in the many flourishing shops. The black object to the upper right of the picture is not a birds-eye view of a lynching, but a huge pair of overalls advertising a well known product.

A familiar scene during the "boom" days at the storage grounds of the Luxemburg manufacturing company.

dealers in lumber and other building materials (below). The company is a corporation owned by a large group of local residents.

The "city fathers" who look after the interests of Luxemburg are shown in the fourth picture from the top. Seated from left to right are: V. J. Laurent, Peter J. Mornard, Louis Rueckl, Jr., Frank Hoppe and John J. Peet; standing, Julius Cahn, Clem Depas, Harold Peters, William Martin, Clem Rass, Charles L. Peters and Hector Boncher. The village treasurer, Dr. E. P. Happel was out of town when the picture was taken, and John Delwiche, now assessor, has taken the office of Clem Depas.

The Bank of Luxemburg, second from the bottom, was erected in 1916 and served the community around

the village. The grounds are beautifully parked with shrubbery and flowers and the building is a source of pride to its 250 stockholders. Since its organization in 1903, L. Albert Karel has served almost continuously as its president. The lower picture shows Luxemburg's modern high school. At the left are men prominent in the affairs of history of Luxemburg. They are, top, Charles L. Peters, who has been president of the village for 22 years; Hector Boncher, supervisor of the village since its incorporation 26 years ago and one of the village organizers; Peter Boucher, first president of the village and now a resident of Green Bay; Nicholas Kaut, known also as "Daddy" of the village, who cleared most of the land on which the town stands.